

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3564

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4263

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

REF: LISBON 4225

SUMMARY: PARTY REACTIONS TO JULY 25 AFM ASSEMBLY DECISIONS HAVE BEEN AS EXPECTED. PCP AND MDP/CDE SUPPORTED DECISIONS; PS AND PPD CRITICIZED THEM. PS NOTED CONTRADICTION BETWEEN PRESIDENT'S SPEECH TO ASSEMBLY AND ASSEMBLY'S DECISIONS. PS CALLED UPON PRESIDENT TO BRING TOGETHER VARIOUS CURRENTS WITHIN AFM AND POLITICAL PARTIES TO FORM "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL SALVATION." PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE MEMBERSHIP OF NEW GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING RETURN OF GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO FROM CUBA. SIX MODERATE OFFICERS, WHO REFUSED TO ATTEND JULY 25 ASSEMBLY, HAVE BEEN MAKING THEMSELVES SCARCE. THEY ARE REPORTED AT FRIENDLY MILITARY
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UNITS -- WHETHER TO PROTECT THEMSELVES OR TO ORGANIZE

OPPOSITION IS NOT YET CLEAR. PRO-CHURCH DEMONSTRATION WAS HELD JULY 27 IN BRAGANCA WITHOUT INCIDENT. PS HELD THREE RALLIES OUTSIDE LISBON OVER WEEKEND. PCP OFFICES IN AGUEDA, ESMORIZ WERE SACKED ON JULY 26. FIVE PERSONS WERE WOUNDED SAME DAY IN EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE ON MADEIRA. CLASHES ALSO OCCURRED BETWEEN PORTUGUESE AND MPLA IN ANGOLA. END SUMMARY

1. PARTY REACTIONS: OFFICIAL POLITICAL PARTY REACTIONS TO JULY 25 DECISIONS OF AFM GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAVE FALLEN ALONG EXPECTED LINES. PCP AND MDP/CDE PRAISED THE DECISIONS. PCP CALLED FOR FORMATION OF A "BROAD SOCIAL FRONT" IN SUPPORT OF REVOLUTION. PS AND PPD, ON OTHER HAND, WERE SHARPLY CRITICAL. BOTH PARTIES ARGUED THAT CONCENTRATION OF POWER IN TRIUMVIRATE WAS VIOLATION OF PACT BETWEEN PARTIES AND AFM AS WELL AS BEING A USURPATION OF THE FUNCTIONS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL. SOCIALIST STATEMENT STRESSED THE INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN WORDS OF PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES IN HIS SPEECH TO AFM ASSEMBLY AND THE ASSEMBLY'S SUBSEQUENT DECISIONS. PS STATEMENT CONCLUDED BY CALLING UPON PRESIDENT, AS ONLY MAN WITH REQUISITE AUTHORITY AND PRESTIGE, TO BRING TOGETHER THE VARIOUS CURRENTS WITHIN THE AFM AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES TO CONSTRUCT A "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL SALVATION."

2. NEW GOVERNMENT: PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE FIFTH PROVISION GOVERNMENT IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO. THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE MADE UNTIL GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO'S RETURN FROM CUBA, NOW EXPECTED JULY 29. STRUCTURE UNDER TRIUMVIRATE WILL PROBABLY INCLUDE TWO VICE PRIME MINISTERS -- GENERAL CARVALHO, SERVING IN DUAL CAPACITY, AND PROF. TEIXEIRO RIBEIRO -- AND MINISTERS AND SECRETARIES OF STATE CONSISTING OF INCUMBENTS AND LEFTIST "NON-PARTY TECHNICIANS."

3. DEMONSTRATIONS AND VIOLENCE: THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE TURNED OUT JULY 27 FOR DEMONSTRATION IN BRAGANCA IN SUPPORT OF BISHOP AND CHURCH HIERARCHY (LISBON 4182). CHURCH SOURCES STATE THAT, IN ADDITION TO PRO-CHURCH BANNERS, ANTI-AFM AND ANTI-COPCON SIGNS WERE ALSO IN EVIDENCE. NO INCIDENTS OCCURRED AND LOCAL MILITARY AUTHORITIES MADE NO

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ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH DEMONSTRATORS.

4. SOCIALISTS HELD THREE RALLIES OVER WEEKEND -- IN FIGUEIRA DA FOZ AND VISEU, NORTH OF LISBON; AND SAO JOAO DA MADEIRA. LARGEST OF THREE, IN FIGUEIRA DA FOZ, WAS ATTENDED BY PS LEADER SOARES. SOARES CALLED FOR PAUSE IN TENSIONS TO ALLOW PRINCIPAL PROTAGONIST TO SIT DOWN TOGETHER TO ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT A REALISTIC PLAN TO SAVE

THE REVOLUTION.

5. INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE WERE REPORTED IN AGUEDA, ESMORIZ, AND FUNCHAL.

-- IN AGUEDA AND ESMORIZ LOCAL PCP OFFICES WERE SACKED ON JULY 26 AND PCP MATERIALS THROWN INTO THE STREET AND BURNED.

-- IN FUNCHAL, ON THE ISLAND OF MADEIRA, FIVE PERSONS WERE REPORTEDLY WOUNDED IN AN EXCHANGE OF GUNFIRE BETWEEN UNNAMED CIVILIANS AND MILITARY PERSONNEL OUTSIDE HOUSES OCCUPIED BY "PROGRESSIVE FORCES." RIVAL DEMONSTRATIONS SPONSORED RESPECTIVELY BY PPD AND UPM TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT.

6. CLASH IN ANGOLA: PORTUGUESE MILITARY UNITS ON JULY 26 CONDUCTED A PUNATIVE RAID ON MPLA OUTPOST IN VILA ALICE. CASUALTY TOLL: 14 DEAD, 22 WOUNDED. PORTUGUESE ACTION CAME IN RETALIATION FOR INCIDENT PREVIOUS DAY IN WHICH MPLA TROOPS DISARMED PORTUGUESE PATROL, ORDERED IT FROM AREA, AND THEN OPENED FIRE ON DEPARTING SOLDIERS.

7. COMMENT: HOW NEW TRIUMVIRATE WILL WORK IS STILL FAR FROM CLEAR. ONE CLUE WILL BE THE FASHION IN WHICH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS FORMED. WILL OTELO HAVE A HAND IN THE SELECTION OF MINISTERS? OR WOULD HE PREFER TO STAND ASIDE, EITHER BECAUSE THE TASK IS SO DIFFICULT OR BECAUSE HE DOES NOT WISH TO ASSOCIATE HIMSELF TOO CLOSELY WITH A GOVERNMENT THAT IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO FAIL? SIX MODERATE OFFICERS WHO REFUSED TO ATTEND JULY 25 ASSEMBLY HAVE BEEN MAKING THEMSELVES SCARCE. ONE SOURCE SAYS THAT THEY HAVE BEEN VISITING FRIENDLY MILITARY UNITS -- WHETHER TO ORGANIZE THE OPPOSITION OR TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM ARREST IS NOT YET CLEAR.
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